



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2020



AS WE GATHER

There are few nights which can rival Christmas Eve—the familiar carols, the sparkling lights of the tree, the family gatherings, and the precious story all combine to fill us with special joy and peace. This night has become so identified with Christianity that a whole world pauses to celebrate. The only problem is that we easily forget what we are celebrating. The celebration becomes the focus instead of the good news of God come to earth in the flesh and blood of our humanity to redeem us sinners from our sin and death and to lead us home to our Father in heaven. Tonight, let us pause to read, sing, and give honest reflection to what makes this night different from all the rest!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

GREETING

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Unto us a Child is born.

People: Unto us a Son is given.

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

People: Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of the Father and of His Son come to earth, Jesus Christ, our Lord!

People: The peace of the Lord be with you, also.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Merciful Father, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who paid for our sin with His own life on the cross. Forgive us for our past and grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may serve You in holiness and righteousness from this moment on. Set our feet upon the way of Christ that we do not depart from it but be found faithful when He comes again in His glory.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PROPHETIC VISION

Pastor: People of God, His children of all ages, come and see how love came down and found expression in the gift of a child. Listen to the word of the prophets who would describe this gift. The prophecy of Balaam:

Men: "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

Women: *I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: A star shall come out of Jacob, and "a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."* Numbers 24:15, 17 (ESV)

Pastor: This child will be heir to the throne of King David. Isaiah prophesies:

Men: **Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,**

Women: *on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

All: **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.** Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)

Pastor: The prophet Micah explains where we are to look to find this coming king:

Men: **But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,**

Women: *from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be Ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days.* Micah 5:2 (ESV)

Pastor: The birth of this ruler will come about under the most unusual of circumstances, for He will not have a human father. Isaiah prophesies:

Men: **Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign.**

Women: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel.* Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

HYMN

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

LSB 366

LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"What Child Is This"

LSB 370

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB 383

SERMON

“A Staggering Promise”

Isaiah 7:10-14

CREED

The Second Article

LSB pg. 322

All: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O blessed Lord and gift of God,

People: **open our eyes to behold, our minds to receive, and our hearts to believe the treasure of grace that is come to us in the birth of Your own Son in flesh and blood.**

Pastor: O gracious Giver and precious Gift, enlighten the darkness of our lives and bring Your joy to our downcast hearts,

People: **that we may be renewed in body and soul and walk in Your light all our days.**

Pastor: O hidden God who has revealed to us Yourself in Your Son,

People: **keep us from searching for another or seeking truth beyond the Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life for us and for all people.**

Pastor: O merciful God, forgive our sins and especially the casual way we treat the precious gift of Your only Son.

People: **Strengthen our conviction and equip us with courage to do Your bidding, to share the Good News of Jesus, and proclaim His salvation to every people in every place.**

Pastor: O mighty Lord, bring an end to the war and violence that threaten nations and people. Raise up good and honest leaders who will work for peace, justice, and freedom for all.

People: **Bless our own president, Congress, and state and local leaders.**

Pastor: O compassionate Lord, we are broken, wounded, and live in the shadow of death. Give healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowful, peace to the dying that all who call upon Your name may be renewed in body and soul, sustained in the day of trouble, and kept by Your grace to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O kind and giving Lord, teach us generosity of heart,

People: may we return to You our tithes and offerings as grateful people and guide us to use the many resources You have entrusted to us on behalf of all the poor and those in need.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives to the acolytes and elders. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip. Thank you.)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the Light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice for the Light of the World has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

People: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:5-7

Pastor: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:14-16* O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, grant that we, who joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

LSB 363

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

People: Amen! Glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!

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*Please join us for our Christmas Day
worship tomorrow morning at 9:00am*



Merry Christmas



OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Alan Carlson
Jeff Derksen
Elders
Jaden Schmidt
Joshua Ternus
Acolytes

Kevin Smith
Congregational Chairman
Sarah Peterson
Organist

Rick Melius
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